

Alfonza W. Middle School Staff 2013-2014

Mr. Dan Bartels, Principal

Mr. Luke Dillon, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Amy Ellis, Assistant Principal

Teaching Staff

Ryan Baldwin

Laura David

Lauren Davis

Penny Eastwood

Rebecca Fendrick

Marlene Grayer

Hope Hibler

Dennis Houfek

Amber Huggenberger

Christopher Johnson

Abby Jones

Christine Jurgens

Barb Larson

Susan Leavitt

Scott Malone

Julie Meyer

Kim Moriarty

Lisa Ostbye

Amanda Petersen

Kristine Prem

Jennie Premer

Brian Robeson

Phillip Schrog

Lindsay Skorupa

Crystal Sleeman

Chad Sturek

Rebecca Suiter

Jenn Walker

Tasha Waller

Paul Watson

Susan Yelinek

Support Staff

Art Apicella

David Bendorf

Jane Brown

Larry Christensen

Jennifer Conahan

Brian Everhart

Cindy Grell

Dorian Hendon

Theresa Keeley

Elizabeth Keeling

Sherry Knowles

Jared Langemeier

Teresa Lefler

Jimmy McCarty

Keri McCoy

Elaine Medeiros

Nancy Meyer

Ray Oliver

Mikayla Richardson

Scott Riffle

Crystal Rivers

Thomas (LT) Stennis

Felicia Thielen

Ruth Worner

Construction Information

186,802 Sq Ft. New Construction

186,802 Total Square Footage

Costs

Building Contract Estimate (Budget)	\$30,243,750.00
Building Contract Award Amount	\$25,622,500.00
Total Change Orders (8) 1.51%	\$388,126.03
\$139.24/sq. ft.	\$26,010,626.03
Fixed Equipment	\$2,124,441.60
Final Construction Cost	\$28,135,067.63

Builders

Architect	DLR Group
Mechanical/Electrical Engineers	DLR Group
General Contractor	Hawkins Construction Co.
Mechanical Contractor	N. Pitlor & Sons Co.
Electrical Contractor	Miller Electric Co.

District Operational Services, Omaha Public Schools

Dr. Jerry Bartee, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Mark Warneke, Director of Buildings and Grounds
Mr. Jeremy Madson, Construction Manager

Thank you!

Northwest High School Music Department

Burke High School ROTC

NE Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen

UNO Alpha Eta Chapter, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity

Great Plains Black History Museum

African American Achievement Council

Davis Middle Parent Fundraising Committee

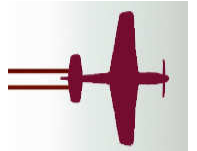
Hy-Vee Food Stores



Omaha Public Schools

Alfonza W. Davis Middle School

Where a student's future takes off!



August 2, 2013 ♦ 5:00 p.m.

Building Dedication

Silent Auction

Block Party



8050 North 129th Avenue ♦ Omaha, Nebraska ♦ 68142

402-561-6130

Home of the Aviators!

Captian Alfonza Wesley Davis was a native of Omaha, Nebraska.

But, for the sake of accuracy, the record should reflect that he was born in Pensacola, Florida in August, 1919, to John Thomas Davis and Allie Sanco Davis. He lost his mother at a very early age, and shortly thereafter the family moved to Omaha. He was still very young when his father remarried, and "Mother Jo" became the only mother Al and his older brother, William Lee Davis, ever really knew. Alfonza attended Omaha public schools, graduating from Omaha Technical High School as Valedictorian in 1937. He went on to earn the first annual scholarship awarded by Alpha Eta chapter of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, as he continued his studies at Omaha University (now University of Nebraska at Omaha) and Creighton University.

In 1941, Alfonza Davis enlisted in the 9th Cavalry Regiment (Buffalo Soldiers) of the Regular Army, serving at Fort Riley in North Central Kansas, where he was given a Corporal's rating and specialist first class. He transferred to the Army Air Corps as an aviation cadet at Tuskegee, Alabama in 1942. The pilots trained there, along with all who were involved in the Army Air Corps' program to train African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft, became known as The Tuskegee Airmen. Al Davis achieved the highest rating in Moving Target Marksmanship during his flight training and was chosen squadron leader. He graduated at the top of class 43C at Tuskegee on March 25, 1943, becoming the first black military aviator from Omaha to earn his wings.

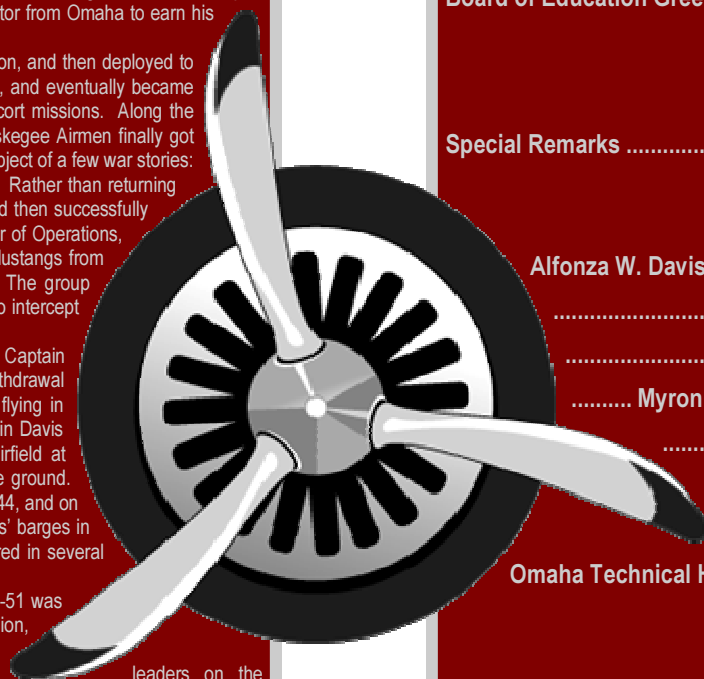
He insisted on finishing his studies and training before marrying Berdyne Anderson, and then deployed to North Africa with the 99th Fighter Squadron. The squadron later moved to Italy, and eventually became part of the 332nd Fighter Group, the now-famous "Red Tails", flying bomber escort missions. Along the way, he was also a member of the 302nd Fighter Squadron. In Europe, the Tuskegee Airmen finally got their chance to demonstrate their heroism, and Al Davis' heroic actions are the subject of a few war stories: One tells of Alfonza's P-47 Thunderbolt blowing a tire on take-off, in June, 1944. Rather than returning to base, he courageously flew the scheduled escort mission to northern Italy, and then successfully landed the plane in a field. During another mission in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations, he was credited with an aerial victory when on July 16th, a group of 45 P-51 Mustangs from the 332nd Fighter Group were sent on a fighter sweep over Vienna, Austria. The group spotted an Italian fighter closing in on a U.S. bomber, and he ordered his flight to intercept the enemy plane. He downed an Italian Macchi in the ensuing air fight.

Another author provides us with some fascinating imagery when he tells of Captain Alfonza Davis leading a formation of 71 P-51s that provided escort, cover, and withdrawal for the 55th Fighter Group, in August, 1944. It is impressive to see six planes flying in formation, so one can imagine how impressive it would have been to see Captain Davis leading 71! During that same month, he led the 332nd in an attack on an airfield at Grozwarden, Romania, in which his flyers destroyed 83 German aircraft on the ground. Captain Davis assumed command of the 99th Fighter Squadron on October 4, 1944, and on October 14th, led an escort mission that successfully struck the Odestal Oil Works' barges in southeastern Germany. The exploits of the Tuskegee Airmen have been featured in several motion pictures.

On what proved to be his last flight, October 29, 1944, Captain Alfonza Davis' P-51 was lost in overcast weather near the Gulf of Trieste during a reconnaissance mission, and he was never heard from again. In his autobiography, future General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. reported: "Capt. Alfonza Davis, one of our most effective leaders on the ground and in the air, did not return from an escort of a P-38 reconnaissance aircraft to Munich."

According to a government database, Alfonza Davis was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, an Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, and a Purple Heart. As a member of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, he received a Distinguished Unit Citation for "the reduction to surrender of the island of Pantelleria, Italy, via the sole means of air power, a historical first", according to one source. Pantelleria's capture was regarded as crucial to the Allied success in invading Sicily in 1943 because it allowed planes to be based in range of the larger island.

Alfonza Davis is memorialized on the Tablets of the Missing at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial in Italy. He also received the Croix de Guerre with Palm awarded by the French Government "in recognition of his outstanding services toward the liberation of France during World War II." He was one of 6 servicemen featured on PBS' presentation "The Unknown Soldier", which aired on Veterans Day, November 11, 1985. The lead-in to the program states: "one of these men may lie in one of the four 'unknown' crypts at Arlington National Cemetery. The legend inscribed on the Tomb reads "Here Rests in Honored Glory an American Soldier Known Only to God." The Omaha Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., and VFW Post 1364 have been named in honor of Captain Davis, and now the dedication of the Alfonza W. Davis Middle School in Omaha, is recognition of the honor and the glory due these heroes, and reminds us that these wonderful men are gone but not forgotten.



Alfonza W. Davis Middle School

Dedication Program ♦ August 2, 2013

Presentation of the Colors Burke High School ROTC Students

Welcome and Introductions Mr. Dan Bartels, Principal

Acceptance of the Building Mr. Mark Evans, Superintendent

Welcome and Introduction of Board of Education Mr. Mark Evans, Superintendent

Board of Education Greeting Mr. Justin Wayne
Omaha Public School Board, President

UNO Alpha Eta Chapter, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Member

Special Remarks Mr. Bob Rose
Nebraska Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

Alfonza W. Davis Family Members

..... Ms. Carmen Davis Anderson, niece
..... Ms. Aquilla Davis White, niece
..... Myron Anderson, Arnetta Cruz, Felicia White, Muhtadi White Clark
..... Giovanni Davis Cruz, Dorene Bokaka White, Aiea Clark

Omaha Technical High School Hall of Fame Induction Mr. Mike Green

Omaha Technical High School

Closing Remarks Mr. Dan Bartels



Following the dedication please join us for the Silent Auction in the cafeteria and Block Party throughout the building.